

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 4-6 have been amended herein.

I. ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 1-2 and 7-21 are allowed.

As presented below, claims 4-6 have been amended herein to depend on allowed claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 4-6 are now allowable.

II. REJECTED CLAIMS

The Examiner has rejected claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicant submits that this rejection is overcome by the above-presented amendments to the claims 4-6. Because these amendments merely amend claims 4-6 to depend on allowed claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that these claim amendments be entered. Further, because claims 4-6 now depend on allowed claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 4-6 are now allowable.

III. DRAWINGS

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that he Formal Drawings filed on July 25, 2001 are acceptable, as we requested in the Response filed on August 20, 2004. [END 4/01/05]

IV. PRIORITY DOCUMENTS

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Final Office Action acknowledges the claim to priority, as Applicant requested in the Response filed on August 20, 2004. However, the Examiner asserts that the priority document submitted on September 11, 2001 was not received. Applicant submits that the priority document was submitted on September 11, 2001. However, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant will submit again the priority document shortly.

V. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Final Office Action includes a copy of the PTO Form 1449's that were submitted in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on June 1, 2004 and August 5, 2004. All of the references cited therein are initialed by the Examiner, thereby indicating that these references were considered and should be listed on the face of any patent that issues from the present application.

VI. CONCLUSION

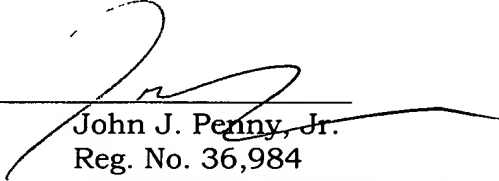
Based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully solicits allowance of the same. If the Examiner believes that any issues could be resolved by a telephone conference, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due for the subject application. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1105.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 5, 2005

By: _____


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